GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:973
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP A DRUG DISCOVERY PROJECT
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Drug Discovery Project and launch a drug discovery programme by engaging researchers, corporates and health experts for treatment of various diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): The Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC) was set up under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR to study and identify the measures needed to strengthen R&D base of the Indian pharmaceutical industry. As recommended by the Committee, a Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) has been set up under the administrative control of the Department of Science & Technology for the development of new drugs. A Drug Development Promotion Board (DDPB) to administer the utilization of PRDSF has also been set up. The programme inter alia includes supporting collaborative R&D projects, arranging soft loans for pharmaceutical industrial R&D projects, making available good quality medicines at reasonable prices, enabling domestic companies to compete internationally by implementing GMP, GLP and other established international guidelines, and to develop India as the preferred global destination for pharmaceutical R&D and manufacturing activities, etc.